Celebratory events held around the state in the last year provided former board members, donors, grantees, and friends of the VFH an opportunity to reconnect with each other in festive settings as they were thanked and honored for their contributions to the humanities over the last three decades.

The 60 guests at the Norfolk kick-off event in November 2003, hosted by former board members Susan Goode and Susan Bland, were treated to music by the Paschall Brothers. In April, a more intimate gathering, hosted by board chair Liz Young, took place at the Middlesex Museum. In September, 120 guests, old friends and new acquaintances, gathered at the University of Virginia Art Museum to hear an address by Bruce Cole, chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Steamboat Era Museum gathering in Irvington in October, hosted by board member Richard T. Wilson, continued the theme of turn and return by expanding and reestablishing the presence of the VFH in yet another region of the state.

The final commemorative event of the year, the 30th Anniversary Dinner—to be held on December 9 at George Mason University and hosted by GMU Dean of Arts and Sciences and VFH board member Danielle Struppa—will conclude with the presentation of 30th anniversary awards. The spirit of these awards, as detailed by Development Director Sheryl Hayes, epitomizes the goal of the whole year: “These awards will highlight the positive work being done in the humanities in the Commonwealth, demonstrate the value of a humane relationship to life, and enhance public appreciation of what we do.”
At the 2003 Virginia Festival of the Book, I met a woman with her 11-year old daughter, Jesse. When I asked Jesse why she came to the festival, she told me, “I want to be a writer some day, so I want to learn how to share my stories.” Jesse found just the right description for what we do in pursuing the humanities—we share our stories.

I have been privileged to be associated with the Virginia Foundation for Humanities since 1982, and I currently chair the board of directors. The VFH is celebrating 30 years of sharing ideas and stories. Through programs that touch so many people—from the Festival of the Book, now celebrating its first decade, to “With Good Reason,” heard on nine public radio stations throughout the Commonwealth, to the Folklife Apprenticeship Program—the VFH provides the connections that let us all reflect with joy and often with awe what binds us and enriches in this fast-moving, contemporary world.

My own memories of change and growth at the VFH include the beginning of teachers’ institutes, which have given so many elementary and secondary teachers in Virginia a chance to enhance their own learning, and of the start of the media program that has resulted in a consortium of southern states pooling funds to create truly memorable films, television, and radio programs. Also, the African American Heritage program ushered in outreach that allows all of us to experience in several ways the rich history of African Americans in Virginia. Last year’s “Re-Imagining Ireland” was yet another example of fusing in-depth cultural and historical discussions with the fun of authentic musical performances. The VFH’s fellows and our program that pioneered ways in which the humanities can help those who have known violence in their lives stand out to me as unique contributions that have even reached beyond the borders of Virginia.

The VFH exists to connect all of us with shared ideas. To do this, we need your active participation—with ideas, with programs, with support. Let’s all celebrate this 30th year by sharing our stories—and thinking of new ones we want to share.

Elizabeth L. Young
Chair, VFH Board of Directors

Planned Giving Efforts Proceed

On Friday, September 10, the recently formed VFH Planned Giving Advisory Council, led by Ron Feinman and Jorgen Vik, made a presentation to the VFH Board on the many ways a planned gift can support the VFH in perpetuity. Mark Smith, Director of Planned Giving at the University of Virginia, and board members Mary Ellen Stumpf and Dick Wilson also provided information and perspectives on the value of planned gifts, both to the organization and to the donor. Following the presentation, a lively discussion ensued among board members.

Since its inception earlier this year (see VFH Views, Spring 2004), the VFH has added seven new members to the Cornerstone Society. This society recognizes substantial, long-term, income-producing gifts, which serve as the cornerstone for future growth and contribute to the expansion of public humanities and scholarship in Virginia.

If you would like more information about making a planned gift, or if you have already included the VFH in your financial plans, please contact Sheryl Hayes at 434-924-6562 or sheryl@virginia.edu.
Research in the Humanities

BY ROBERTA CULBERTSON

In the early 1980s, the VFH was growing as a granting agency for public programs. Many museums, libraries, cities, towns, and small non-profits had benefited from VFH support and funding. Board members then began to ask what the VFH might do to support the other side of the VFH equation, the humanities professionals themselves. What did professors, teachers, museum directors and curators, librarians, researchers, writers, and others who “professed” the humanities need to do their jobs better?

Among other things, the board agreed, they needed time to conduct the research that made them valuable to the public and their constituents, be they students, museum-goers, readers, or others. They needed time away from the demands of teaching and interpreting the humanities to complete their books, make sense of collections of letters or papers, go deeper into their fields of study, and overall, to keep their work fresh and up-to-date.

At the same time, the board wanted to support research and writing in humanities subjects that appealed to the wider public and not only to scholars. These subjects included the history of Virginia, the future of globalization, the place of women in Virginia history, the untold stories of the many Virginia minorities, and dark and difficult problems like violence and racism. Such untold stories of the many Virginia minorities, and dark and difficult problems like violence and racism. Such subjects were of pressing concern to the public, and it only made sense that the VFH should take on a research role in these areas, opening the door to many projects on how we got here and how we live.

To support scholars and others in the humanities, and also to advance research in the questions real people ask of the humanities, in 1986 the VFH launched its Fellowship Program. From that time on, Fellows from Virginia, the nation, and the world would be in residence at the VFH every semester, studying and writing on a range of topics as wide as it was deep.

Philosophers came to study and report on how we should educate our children, whether there are ultimate ethical and moral principles or only relative ones, and why it is that rationalism, which gave us the promise of democracy, also seems to lead to totalitarianism. Historians began to open up the stories of women in wartime, on plantations, and in Peking; and of the long roads to civil rights and American Indian recognition, for example. Writers Mary Lee Settle, Henry Wieneck, and Deborah McDowell, among others, came to write novels, non-fiction, and memoirs about life in the South, past, and present.

The VFH over the years became known as a center for research, and its Fellows included some of the leading lights in many fields of the humanities: Edward Ayers and William Freehling in Southern history, Ann Jones and Susan Gubar in American literature, Victoria Sanford and Susan MacKinnon in Anthropology, and Reginald Butler and Ervin Jordan in African American history. The VFH has also hosted an impressive number of foreign scholars from China, Australia, New Zealand, India, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Zimbabwe, and Spain.

VFH Fellowships

The VFH in September announced its selection of a diverse and experienced group of individuals for resident fellowships this fall:

K. Lawrie Balfour, Assistant Professor of Politics, University of Virginia; Democracy’s Reconstruction: Essays on the Political Thought of W.E.B. Du Bois.

William M. Kelso, Director of Archaeology, Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA); Jamestown Rediscovered: The Buried Truth about America’s Birthplace.

Alex L. Leidholdt, Assistant Professor, School of Media Arts and Design, James Madison University; Southern Journalist “Battling” Nell Lewis: Reformer to Reactionary.

Andrew B. Lewis, Visiting Assistant Professor, Jepson School University of Richmond; The Shadow of Youth: Consumer Society, Youth Culture and the Civil Rights Movement.

Mary Lee Settle, writer; Thomas Jefferson at Shadwell.

Senior Fellow Jerome S. Handler is continuing his expansion of the website The Atlantic Slave Trade and Slave Life in the Americas: A Visual Record.

The Emilia Galli Struppa Fellow William W. Freehling remains at the VFH while he completes Road to Disunion. Volume II. Secessionists Triumphant, 1854-1861.

J. Gordon Hylton, professor of law and adjunct professor of history at Marquette, is analyzing the growth of the African American bar in Virginia in the final decades of the 19th century. Hylton is not resident at the VFH this year.

30 Year Timeline

Part of the celebration of the VFH’s 30th Anniversary may be seen on the following six pages: a timeline of peak and pivotal events from the three decades of the Foundation’s presence in Virginia. Reducing this organization’s eventful history into a few milestones was a difficult task; to date the VFH has funded thousands of programs, grown out of a handful of offices, and made countless friends and colleagues in the humanities throughout Virginia, the nation, and the world.

Further, charting the Foundation’s progress in anything linear has its own set of difficulties, since the organization operates with concurrent streams of programming—Grants, Center for the Book, African American Heritage, the Media Program, for example—that often work in collaboration. This effect may best be graphed in a broadening flow chart: a program in one region giving rise to another in another region, programs in one interest being used as a model for others, programs gathering force from each in outward-extending rivulets and ripples. A line that could accurately reflect this synergy would easily overwhelm the constraints of the printed page.

Nevertheless, we have attempted to reproduce some of that branching and expansion in the timeline’s cross-referencing notes (see 1980, for example), which allow readers to follow streams of a particular interest when connections can be made. The hope is that the many ways in which the VFH revisits its mission emerge as the organization strengthens its ability to bring humanities events and programs to a statewide, national, and international audience.

Some more topical timeline milestones have been expanded when a link can readily be seen between programs now in action and the events in the Foundation’s history that made these newer programs possible. We hope that VFH friends will enjoy recalling some of the vital contributions the organization has made to the Commonwealth, and we likewise hope that those who are new to the VFH will see the depth and breadth by celebrating “thirty years of excellence.”

Pictured are Roberta A. Culbertson (front left), VHF Program Director for Research and Education, Huck and Andrew Lewis, Lawrie Balfour, Alex Leidholdt, and Bill Kelso. For more information on history of the Fellowship Program and the Center for the Humanities, see page 6.
Who Owns the Past?

by David Bearinger

 Archaeology is seen by many as an indispensable tool for exploring the mysteries of the past, for gaining a more complete understanding of Virginia’s history (and prehistory), and for uncovering evidence that is—literally—buried, and therefore inaccessible through other modes of research. Critics of the discipline cite the many abuses that have occurred since Jefferson first excavated Indian mounds near Monticello, and what they see as the tendency of science—archaeology in particular—to disregard or violate the sacred in its search for relics of the past and “answers.”

In 1994, the VFH awarded funds to support development of a documentary film called *Who Owns the Past*—which dealt with issues concerning the repatriation of American Indian remains and, more broadly, with the question of whether traditional Native American or Western scientific values have the more compelling claim to ownership of human remains, sacred objects, and other culturally significant artifacts. Virginia archaeologists and Indian tribal leaders served as advisors and consultants to this project.

The VFH does not support archaeological excavations, but we do have a long history of supporting the interpretation of archaeological findings—at sites that range from Gunston Hall and Poplar Forest to a Powhatan village in Gloucester County. Many experts—archaeologists as well as Virginia Indian chiefs and other leaders—now believe this site is Werowocomoco, the capital of the Powhatan chiefdom during the first years of the Jamestown colony (see *VFH Views*, Fall 2003).

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, we supported a series of book publications on the current state of archaeological research in the Commonwealth, establishing a foundation for future scholarship.

As the Foundation’s newly hired Executive Director, Rob Vaughan toured the Commonwealth to build support and refine direction, making inclusiveness a priority then, as now. Meetings took place in Newport News, Wise, Roanoke, Abingdon, Fredericksburg, Farmville, Richmond, Harrisonburg, Norfolk, and Northern Virginia.
and fieldwork (Grants to the Archaeological Society of Virginia).

Several recent VFH-funded projects have been based on non-excavating archaeological surveys—of African American cemeteries in Amherst and Albemarle Counties (Sweet Briar College) and two possible Underground Railroad sites in Portsmouth (Norfolk State University).

As 2007 approaches, interest in Virginia archaeology is increasing. A VFH-funded conference of historians, archaeologists, and the public held in 1997 helped to lay the groundwork and to determine the archaeological focus for the Jamestown Rediscovery Project (Colonial Williamsburg Foundation). Currently, the archaeological director of the Rediscovery Project, William Kelso, is a research fellow at the VFH.

In preparing for the 2007 anniversary, the VFH is aware of the important contributions archaeology has made to our collective understanding of the past. Our focus remains on the interpretation of important archaeological discoveries; on issues that are raised by archaeological research; and on the importance of full collaboration between professional archaeologists, historians, and other scholars, and those who are directly connected—by tribe, community, or family—to an archaeological site, its mysteries, and what is found there.

First summer seminars for Virginia high school teachers: America, Europe and the Soviet Union at the College of William and Mary; Theater: Impulse and Response at Mary Washington College; The Bill of Rights and the Classroom at Virginia Commonwealth University (see 1987); and Teaching Shakespeare at Virginia Tech (see 1999).

This project remains one of the largest single undertakings in the Foundation’s 30-year history. It produced an exhibit, entitled “A Share of Honour,” which opened at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond in the Fall of 1984 and subsequently at the Chrysler Museum in Norfolk and the Roanoke Museum of Fine Arts; and a book-length full-color catalogue of the same title. A traveling version of the exhibit continued to circulate throughout the state for two decades.

The catalogue explored the contributions of Virginia women from the 17th century to the Modern Era. Lectures and other public programs on women’s contributions to the Commonwealth’s history proliferated, resulting in a prolonged statewide conversation involving thousands of participants, generating new scholarship, and—perhaps most important—helping to create a new set of attitudes and assumptions about the significance of women’s contributions to Virginia’s history and to the nation as a whole. Twenty years later, it may be easy to overlook how extraordinary, even revolutionary, this project was in 1984.

This project inspired the VFH to create its own series of programs on the Bill of Rights (see 1987, 1991, 1999). This is just one example of how a single grant-funded project influenced the development of a major VFH initiative, conducted in this case over a 15-year period, with results that had an impact throughout Virginia and beyond.
Another Side of the Story: Explorations of Virginia Indian History and Culture

BY DAVID BEARINGER

In 1987, the VFH supported a two-day conference in which academic scholars, elected officials, and members of Virginia’s state-recognized tribes gathered to discuss issues of both immediate and long-range concern to Indian communities (grant to United Indians of Virginia). It was the first such gathering in the history of the state.

These discussions focused in part on the need to make all Virginians aware of the presence of Indian people and tribal communities in the Commonwealth—and to send the message We’re still here. After nearly 400 years of confronting widespread ignorance, prejudice, denial, indifference, and sometimes outright hostility, many of the Indian people who attended the conference spoke with confidence and passion about the need for change, and their belief that the time for change had come.

They focused on the need to correct persistent misunderstandings and misrepresentations of Indian history and culture that are found in daily language, school textbooks, popular entertainment, and documentary records. Regrettably, some of the worst of these misrepresentations were intentionally—maliciously and systematically—created and advanced by state officials through the adoption and enforcement of Virginia’s Racial Integrity laws.

Those attending spoke, as well, about the need to create opportunities in which Virginia’s Indian leaders and tribal scholars would take the lead in writing their own histories—telling their own stories in ways that would balance, and in some cases perhaps overturn, the traditional accounts.

As its contribution to the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution, the VFH published a collection of landmark Supreme Court cases, with commentary by legal scholars, and used this book as the text in sixty public discussion programs held statewide. In 1991—the year of the Bicentennial of the Bill of Rights—we published a second, expanded edition, entitled The Bill of Rights, The Courts, and The Law, with another series of fifty public discussions held throughout Virginia. The new volume was used in high school and college classrooms, in at least one law school, and distributed to embassy libraries worldwide by the United States Information Agency. We also received funding for a semester-long curriculum development institute for teachers, using this book as the primary text. The capstone of the project came in 1999, when VFH published a new and expanded edition of the book and held a third series of forums. The 1999 publication was the first ever to carry the VFH imprint on its spine, and the first of our publications to be distributed by a major press (University of Virginia Press). Overall, more than sixteen thousand people attended 160 public discussion programs supported by VFH as part of this fifteen-year project. Curricula developed by teachers in the 1991 institute are still in use. And the book remains, arguably, the best single introduction to the Bill of Rights—and to the role of the Supreme Court as an interpreter of the Bill of Rights—currently in print.
In the years since the conference, the VFH has worked extensively with several of the Virginia tribes, as well as with inter-tribal organizations and others to help advance the goals set forth at this event. A grant in 1989 supported production of a documentary film on the traditional hunting and fishing practices of the Pamunkey. A series of grants to the Monacan Tribe supported the creation of a tribal museum in Amherst County, an oral history video, and research and facial reconstruction of two Monacan Indian skulls which had been exhumed in the 19th century from a burial mound in Rockbridge County.

More recently, a grant to the Rappahannock Tribe has helped to support research on tribal history, and to initiate planning for a series of educational programs that will lay the foundation for future programs in connection with 2007. In 2003-04, the Pamunkey Pottery tradition was featured in the VFH Folklife Apprenticeship program.

In 1990, David Smith, from Lynchburg College, received a VFH research fellowship to document the legacy of Walter Plecker and the notorious Racial Integrity Laws, which officially denied Indian people in the state the right to claim their Indian identity.

The Institute focuses on the survivors of mass violence, including war, riots, repression, and massacres, and how they live in and describe the world after violence. The Institute has to date supported nearly twenty research fellows, hosted two major international conferences (one at the invitation of the Rockefeller Foundation) and generated fifteen publications on the effects of violence. (See Publications sidebar.) Institute staff and fellows also conduct workshops and trainings in coping with the effects of violence in community settings, and this year are embarking on a collaborative project with the Center for International Studies and Research (CERI / Sciences-Po) in Paris, France, involving field projects in Cambodia, Bosnia, Guatemala, and East Congo. The project is called “Re-Imagining Peace after Massacres,” and it is seeking a humanities-based approach to rebuilding after war (see 2004).

Continued on page 11
The African American Heritage in Virginia Program

BY DAVID BEARINGER

The African American Heritage in Virginia Program was established in the Fall of 1999 and formally launched at a public ceremony held in Charlottesville on June 1, 2000. This Program was created, partly, in recognition of the high priority the VFH has always given to the understanding and interpretation of Virginia’s African American history and heritage. No other organization in Virginia has a comparable record of support for the study of African American history statewide. And especially in the past two decades, there is no subject or field of interest—with the exception of local and regional history; broadly defined—that has had a greater share of overall VFH programming or received more direct financial support, through grants and fellowships.

The genesis of the African American Heritage Program is also the result of a partnership between the VFH and the Virginia Tourism Corporation to create an African American Heritage Trail for Virginia. The first Trail brochure, including information on 101 African American historic sites, was published in 2002. In the process of creating this Heritage Trail, the VFH compiled a database of nearly 500 African American historic sites, created a special grant program as a complement to the Heritage Trails initiative, and developed a series of initiatives and partnerships with other organizations to explore the stories of African Americans in Virginia and their contributions since the first Africans arrived on Virginia’s shores in 1619.

These partnerships have included a collaboration with the Hampton University Museum to produce an exhibit entitled “Don’t Grieve After Me: The Black Experience in Virginia,” a series of oral history workshops for teachers and representatives of organizations currently engaged in documenting African American history at the local level; and an exemplary cooperative effort with a local foundation and a newly established community organization in Martinsville, designed to document, preserve, and interpret African American history in Martinsville and Henry County.

In 2004, the African American Heritage Program was responsible for a major symposium, held in Charlottesville, marking the 50th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decision, and many of our grants during 2004 were given to support projects related to this anniversary. African American education has been, and remains, an important focus of the Program: recent grants have helped to tell the stories of massive resistance and desegregation in Prince Edward County and statewide, and to explore the history and rebirth of Christiansburg.

Since 1982, the VFH has supported scores of seminars, institutes, and other programs for Virginia’s teachers. The majority of these have been funded through grants to Virginia-based organizations; others have been conceived and conducted by the VFH staff. Semester-long curriculum development institutes on The Bill of Rights (1991) and Science, Technology, and Society (1996) grew out of larger VFH initiatives. In the early 1990s, the Southwest Regional Humanities Council organized a series of four summer seminars on local and regional history, also designed to produce new teaching materials. Most recently, the VFH has hosted five national institutes on the transatlantic slave trade and one on Southern women’s literature, developed by leading faculty in these fields. Developing and supporting programs that serve the needs of Virginia’s teachers remains a high priority for the VFH. It is our most effective means of reaching into the schools and supporting public education in the Commonwealth.
Having directed so much attention toward the study of violence and civic responsibility over the past decades, the VFH felt it was important to share the resulting research and resources openly in a time of grief. The materials were given free of charge—to individuals, schools, higher education institutes, libraries, a chapter of the League of Women voters—in short, to anyone coping or helping others to cope with the serious personal and social ramifications of the event. These materials included publications from the Institute on Violence and Survival (After Violence and Sacred Bearings), MotherEd® (“Tips for Families During Difficult Times”), and other special projects (The Bill of Rights, Courts, and the Law, for example). Resulting inquiries and grateful responses included this one, “Thank you for offering these publications at this time... a timely and a hopeful gesture.”

Over the years, the VFH has contributed to countless publications associated with exhibits, conferences, teachers institutes, and programs. Below is a selected list of print and audio-visual publications generated by the VFH and VFH staff:

- The Supreme Court, the Bill of Rights and the Law (1987)
- A New Perspective: Southern Women’s Cultural History from the Civil War to Civil Rights (1989)
- After Violence workbook series (2000)
- Songs for Our Father: Paschall Brothers (2003)
- Re-Imagining Ireland (2004)

Institute, one of the most important African American educational institutions in Virginia and the South during the period from emancipation to desegregation.

Until recently, the contributions of African Americans to the growth of Virginia and the experience of African Americans in the Commonwealth were often ignored or poorly understood. This is changing, but more work needs to be done, especially as Virginia approaches the 400th anniversary of its founding in 2007. The VFH remains as committed to this work as we have been throughout our history, and the African American Heritage Program is the embodiment of that commitment.
The 2004 Folklife Apprenticeship Showcase

By Jon Lohman

2004-05 Master Artists and Apprentices
Master mandolin builder Gerald Anderson and apprentice Spencer Strickland of Grayson County
Master Irish flute maker Patrick Olwell and apprentice Aaron Olwell of Nelson County
Master Old Time banjo player Mike Seeger and apprentice Seth Swingle of Rorkbridge County
Master Old Order Mennonite quilt master Older Mennonite quilt master Old Mary Beery and apprentices Mollie Beery and Joan Knight of Rockingham County
Master tabla drummer Brote Roy and apprentice Sunil Chugh of Fairfax County
Master snake cane carver Norman Amos and apprentice John Buck of Pittsylvania County
Master split oak basketmaker Clyde Jenkins and apprentice Sammy Cave of Page County
Master traditional African dancer Ofosuwa Abiola-Tamba and apprentice Monica James of Newport News
Master flat-foot dancer Brenda Joyce and apprentices Justin Hopkins and Shannon Joyce of Patrick County

2003-04 Master Artists and Apprentices
Master Bluegrass Fiddler Buddy Pendleton and apprentice Montana Young of Patrick County
Master Brunswick Stewmaster John D. Clary and apprentice Chiles Criddle of Brunswick County
Master Cornshuck Doll Maker Ganelli Marshall and apprentice Sarah Mullins of Wise County
Appalachian singer Spencer Moore and apprentice Ben Moore, Jr. of Smyth County
Master broom-maker William Counts and apprentice Thomas Vail of Russell County
Master Kathak (North Indian) dancer Asha Vattikuti and apprentice Janhavi Kirtane of Arlington
Master Powhatan blackware potter Mildred Moore and apprentice Bonnie Sears of King William County
Canning master Penny Stillwell and apprentice D. Gail Lawrence of Wythe County
Classic banjo master Joe Ayers and apprentice Patrick Hester of Fluvanna County

On Sunday, September 19, the Virginia Folklife Program at the VFH held its third annual Virginia Folklife Apprenticeship Showcase, which served to both celebrate the completion of the 2003-2004 apprenticeships and to introduce the new class of apprenticeship teams.

The event also provides the opportunity to recognize the program participants as “Virginia Folk Masters.” The Folklife Apprenticeships pair experienced “master artists” from a wide range of traditional art forms with apprentices for a nine-month, one-on-one learning experience. Since its inception, the Folklife Apprenticeship program has helped pass many treasured folkways along to new generations, while simultaneously reinvigorating the work of the master artists.

On a clear, sunny day that belied the earlier threats of heavy rain from Hurricane Ivan, tables were covered with an array of Virginia folk crafts – handmade mandolins, split-oak baskets, Pamunkey Indian pottery, snake canes, cornshuck dolls, and even canned pickles, beets, and apple butter. The aroma of hot Brunswick Stew and the sounds from instruments that one often associates with Virginia—banjos, fiddles, mandolins—filled the air, intermixed with some instruments from abroad, such as the tabla drum from India and the Irish flute.

The Folklife Apprenticeship Program has, from its beginnings, intended to expand the definition of Virginia folklife to include traditions both new and old. Also, the program seeks to recognize a wide range of masters in a variety of folkways, even those not commonly thought of as “art.” Wythe County canner Penny Stillwell, for example, was visibly emotional upon receiving her recognition as a Virginia Folk Master. “I really never could have imagined something like this,” she told the capacity crowd, “but I’m just so honored and hope that Gail [her apprentice] will carry this tradition on for years to come.” Honoring another important Virginia foodway, the Brunswick Stewmasters once again made their presence emphatically known, preparing their savory concoction for 150 people from one cast iron pot.

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The afternoon was replete with musical performances from both the graduating and entering classes of apprenticeship teams. Buddy Pendleton, a master bluegrass fiddler who was once a member of Bill Monroe’s Bluegrass Boys, appeared with his young apprentice, 11-year old fiddler phenomenon Montana Young. Joe Ayers, classic-style banjo master and historian, joined his apprentice Patrick Hester on several numbers from the 19th century. Spencer Strickland, who will be apprenticing with Grayson County mandolin builder Gerald Anderson, blew the crowd away with his mandolin-playing, including the song that won him the title of “Best All-Around Performer” at the 2004 Galax Fiddlers Convention. Not to be outdone, the father and son apprenticeship team of Patrick and Aaron Olwell showed that while their apprenticeship was in Irish flute-making, they were equally skilled at playing their instruments as well. The stellar musical performances were capped with old-time music legend and local favorite Mike Seeger, joined by his talented young apprentice Seth Swingle.

This year’s showcase had a special focus on dance traditions. Master flatfoot dancer Brenda Joyce danced through the aisles during the bluegrass numbers; she will be passing it on to her daughters Shannon Joyce and local dancer Justin Hopkins. Other featured dance forms included Kathak dance of Northern India and various styles from West Africa.
New Arrivals at VFH

Christina Draper joined the VFH on September 27 as the new Program Director of the African American Heritage in Virginia Program. She has a B.A. in Graphic Design from Hampton University and a Masters degree from Virginia State University. A native of Richmond, she has many ties to Martinsville, Virginia (including relatives and a Masters thesis on the Piedmont Christian Institute, a private, church-based school which served as the only high school for African American students in Martinsville/Henry County from 1900-1934). One of her major responsibilities will be to work on the Fayette Area Historical Initiative in Martinsville. In addition to her passion for the job and quiet sense of humor, Christina brings her graphic design and history background, and a wealth of experience at the Valentine Richmond History Museum. In her free time, she loves to cook and crochet. She can be reached at cdraper@virginia.edu or 434-243-5528.

Elliot Majerczyk, associate producer of With Good Reason, came to the VFH on August 20 after spending eight years as a writer-broadcaster for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in Montreal and working as a clinical audiologist in a community health center in Toronto. Being an “extreme generalist,” he relishes working on the wide range of topics explored by With Good Reason. When not involved in the show, he can usually be found creating “soundscape”s with his home recording technology, approximating good Mexican and Southern cuisine, or just giggling at nothing in particular with his daughter Aviva. He can be reached at emajer@virginia.edu or 434-924-3855.

Nancy King came to the VFH on July 1 with a background in commercial radio. For seven years she produced and hosted Charlottesville Live, a daily interview program on WINA Radio where she chatted with the likes of John Grisham and Rita Mae Brown as well as canine hypnotists and recovering drug addicts. Prior to that, Nancy worked as a political reporter in Washington, D.C., and Little Rock, Arkansas. Her passion is birds and she frequently travels with friends to remote outposts to track down elusive species. As associate producer of With Good Reason, she enjoys working with Sarah McConnell again—they first shared newsroom duties at WINA back in 1979. She can be reached at nking@virginia.edu or 434-924-4040.

Explorations of Virginia Indian History and Culture

Continued from page 7

A year earlier, the VFH worked in partnership with Hampton University to create an exhibit, catalogue, and symposium on the history of the Indian Education Program at Hampton Institute. Hampton was at the forefront of U.S. assimilation efforts in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and over a 45-year period more than 1,200 Indian children and young adults—mostly from the Plains territories—were brought to Virginia under a program whose goal was to “civilize” and set them firmly on the “white man’s road.”

For more than 15 years, the VFH has explicitly acknowledged that chiefs and other tribal authorities are scholars of their traditions, and we strongly endorse the argument that the interpretation of Indian history and culture requires the participation of Indian scholars. We also strongly encourage and support collaboration between tribal and academic scholars.

Our grants have twice supported the Virginia Indian Nations Summit, organized by Virginia Tech’s Center for Interdisciplinary Studies. Grants to the American Indian Resource Center at the College of William and Mary have supported educational and interpretative programs based on research at Werowocomoco (see VFH Views, Fall 2003) and a cd-rom and video based on oral histories collected from the chiefs of the eight state-recognized tribes. Each of these efforts has involved both Indian and non-Indian scholars. Meanwhile, in another exemplary collaboration, the Virginia Council on Indians is working closely with Indian advisors and faculty from Virginia Tech with funding from the VFH to develop a curriculum resource workbook and video on Virginia Indian history and culture.

In the years ahead, the VFH will continue to encourage active partnerships between Indian and academic scholars, and to support the efforts of the Virginia tribes to tell their own stories. We will also work to ensure that Indian perspectives on Virginia’s founding and growth over 400 years are an essential part of the conversation surrounding 2007.
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Virginia Festival of the Book Program Director Nancy Damon was honored on September 23 by the Charlottesville Albemarle Convention and Visitors Bureau as its “Tourism Appreciation Award” recipient for VABook! 2004, whose total attendance was 22,836. The event was held on Monticello.

Damon Honored; VFH Celebrates

VFH Board Chair Liz Young and VFH President Rob Vaughan greet Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities Bruce Cole, keynote speaker at a VFH 30th Anniversary dinner at the UVA art museum on September 16.

On hand at the gathering were Bertha Escoffery, former VFH Fellow Rita Dandridge, and former board member Betty Jean Jones and her husband Donald Jones.